

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application and are allowed. The Office action states that prosecution for on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *ex parte Quayle*.

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to correct an obvious error as instructed by the Examiner. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

The Office action objects to the drawings for various reasons, as discussed below. These points are addressed as follows.

(a) The Office action requires the source filter being positioned between the first splitting filter and the first recombining filter, as recited in claim 7, be shown in the drawings. Accordingly, new Fig. 2C is added showing this feature, and the specification is amended to reflect and refer to the new Fig. 2C. No new matter is added; support for the new Fig. 2C can be found in the original disclosure, for example in original claim 7 and also in the third paragraph of Page 10 of the specification.

(b) The Office action requires that in Fig. 2B, "PRIOR ART" should be deleted. Accordingly, this is done in the proposed drawing correction.

(c) The Office action points out that reference characters used in Fig. 2A were redundantly used in Fig. 1A to label different features. Accordingly, Fig. 1A is relabeled with new reference labels, and the specification is amended accordingly.

(d) The Office action objects to the reference labels 21, 23, 25, 34, 38, and 40 in the drawings because they are not referenced in the description. Accordingly, these reference labels are removed from Figs. 2A and 2B in the drawing correction.

The drawings having been corrected in the proposed drawing correction as required by the Examiner, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to claim 2 for an obvious error and requires correction. Claim 2 is amended as required. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner states that claims 1-10 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this confirmation of the patentability of claims 1-10.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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